

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
LEGAL SECTION, MANILA

DSG

APD 500
15 April 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 282)
THRU : Executive Officer, Legal Section, Manila
SUBJECT : Atrocities at Barrio San Roque and Sitio Bituto,
Zamboanga City, Mindanao, P. I., March 1945.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

For the purpose of review two separate reports have been combined and considered together inasmuch as the atrocities were apparently committed by the same military unit within two weeks of each other and at approximately the same locality. In order to avoid confusion, the pages of the record of the atrocity occurring last will be preceded by "I".

On or about 8 March 1945, some forty prisoners from San Ramon Penal Colony, Zamboanga City, who had been working under Japanese military supervision, were being escorted back by Japanese guards (R 8). When they reached Barrio San Roque, members of the Japanese naval forces tied them and placed them in three air-raid shelters of the Japanese navy camp near the San Roque River (R 2, Ex A). One by one the prisoners were taken from the shelters and apparently were killed as their cries of pain could be heard by those remaining under guard in the shelters (R 9). About ten prisoners succeeded in escaping and one of this group declares that he witnessed the execution of the other group from the top of a coconut tree where he remained for some two hours (R 19, 20).

On or about 23 March 1945, Japanese military personnel rounded up civilians at Sitio Bituto, Barrio Pasonanca, Zamboanga City, and confiscated all bolos. The prisoners were then tied and some of them taken individually to a nearby stream where Japanese slashed them on the head and back with sabers, bolos, and picks (R 1-2, 16). Another victim who attempted to escape was bayoneted (R 1-7), while a Filipino woman states that she was raped by a Japanese (R 1-26).

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